

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 170043
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCS-03 DHA-02 SCA-01
NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 /069 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:REGRIBBIN:LA
APPROVED BY AF:RMMOOSE
AF/C:EMARKS
;F/C:TRBUCHANAN
AF:TSEELYE
;F/P:MR. HOLLIDAY (INFO)
-----007732 210118Z /75
O 210041Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170043

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS

REF: (A) BANGUI 1511; (B) BANGUI 1520

1. UNLESS RANDALL RELEASED, IMMEDIATELY INFORM
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT YOU HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED
TO RAISE ISSUE WITH EMPEROR BOKASSA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
FOLLOWING POINTS ARE TO BE USED IN MEETING WITH EMPEROR,
AS WELL AS USED IN DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OR
PRIME MINISTER. (A) IN LIGHT OF OUR GOOD RELATIONS YOU
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SHOULD INFORM BOKASSA OF OUR SURPRISE AND DISMAY THAT AN
INCIDENT OF THIS SORT COULD ARISE. WE ARE ANXIOUS THAT
IT BE QUICKLY RESOLVED SO NOT AS TO BECOME AN IRRITANT IN
OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE ARE PARTICULARLY DISTRESSED BY
THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE GOCAE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AS TO
THE WHEREABOUTS, WELFARE AND REASON FOR DETENTION OF THE
TWO MEN. SUCH INFORMATION AND CONSULAR ACCESS IS NORMALLY

PROVIDED WITHOUT DELAY ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL LAW AND
ACCEPTED DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE.

(B). WE RECOGNIZE THAT AS A SOVEREIGN NATION THE CAE
IS ENTITLED TO ACT ACCORDING TO ITS OWN LAWS AND
REGULATIONS, HOWEVER, WHEN NO INFORMATION IS PROVIDED
OR FORMAL CHARGES LEVIED, RELATIVELY MINOR INCIDENTS CAN
OFTEN ESCALATE INTO MAJOR PROBLEMS. WE MUST FRANKLY
NOTE THAT THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN SOME ESCALATION IN THE
CASE. WE DO NOT WISH TO DEBATE THE RIGHTS OF THE PRESS,
THE POINTS OF THE LAW UNDER WHICH THE JOURNALISTS WERE
DETAINED, NOR THE PROPRIETY OF THE GOCAE'S ACTION.
REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVED IN THE
DETENTION, COMPASSIONATE AND RAPID ACTION ON THE EMPEROR'S
PART TO HAVE THE JOURNALISTS RELEASED IS NOW NEEDED. THE
CASE SHOULD BE RESOLVED QUICKLY IN ORDER TO AVOID HAVING
IT BECOME A MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK IN AMERICAN PUBLIC
PERCEPTION OF THE CAE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POOR
IMAGE FOR THE COUNTRY AND ITS LEADERS.

2. IN EVENT THAT GOCAE LEVIES FORMAL CHARGES AGAINST
JOURNALISTS, POINTS DETAILED ABOVE REMAIN VALID. YOU
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EXPLICITLY NOTE THE ADVERSE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF
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CUSTODY YOU MUST DEMAND IMMEDIATE CONSULAR ACCESS. VANCE

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /023 R

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DRAFTED BY: AF/C:REGRIBBIN:LA

APPROVED BY: AF/C: EMARKS

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R 211830Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170043

FOR SIETZ

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 170043 ACTION BANGUI INFO PARIS
YAOUNDE NAIROBI JULY 21.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170043

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, JOURNALISTS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: REGRIBBIN:LA
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770258-0798
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS
TAGS: CARR, (RANDALL, JONATHAN)
To: BANGUI
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